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WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, West Dean & Lydney Rural District Councils)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.



for the year

1955

West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, WEST DEAN AND LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICTS)

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils
of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955. I have done my best to prepare this in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. The sanitary conditions and problems of your Districts are many and varied and this is a brief summary of them.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation and support I have received from the Chairmen and Members of the Councils. I thank the Sanitary Inspectors for their loyal support and the other officials of the Councils for their co-operation. I have to thank the Inspectors, Surveyors, Clerks to the Councils and other officers, and the Divisional Health Office Clerks for their assistance in preparing this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

GENERAL ITEMS

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates Compared

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales ..	15.0	11.7
Gloucestershire ..	15.42	11.44
Combined Forest Area ..	14.45 (15.35)	10.09 (10.16)
East Dean	15.7 (16.3)	9.8 (10.0)
West Dean	14.5 (15.3)	10.9 (10.5)
Lydney R.D. ..	12.25 (13.7)	9.3 (9.6)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population; the Death Rate the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the “corrected” rates which are obtained by multiplying the rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General. The Death Rates are all low and I consider this to be due to the fact that the deaths at Westbury Hall and Hospital are not referred back to the Districts.

There were 23 deaths under 1 year to the 731 live births during the year. No Infant Mortality Rate can be obtained from such a small number but it would appear to tally with the National Rate of 24.9. Of these infant deaths 19 occurred within the first four weeks after birth.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth again this year.

Cancer Deaths

There were 94 deaths from cancer as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	7	7	14
Lung and Bronchus	13	3	16
Breast		12	12
Uterus		7	7
Other	20	23	43
Leukemia	2	—	2
	—	—	—
	42	52	94
	—	—	—

In the year 1935 there were 67 deaths from this group of diseases. Some of this increase is due to the fact that less people die relatively young from infections and hence more people reach the older age groups in which cancer is more frequent. Tobacco smoking has been proved to be the most important factor in the rapid increase of cancer of the lung and bronchus, and this knowledge should lead eventually to a great reduction in cancer of this site. Early treatment is so important in cancer of the breast and uterus and it is regrettable

to see so many deaths from cancer of these sites. Unfortunately education about this disease appears most unpopular.

Housing and Care of Old People.

The housing of old people continues to be a considerable problem. As young families are provided for more and more by the new Council House Estates, the old people tend to be left to spend their days in degenerating properties many of which do not justify re-conditioning and in others the owners of which are reluctant to repair because of the low rents obtained. Of great interest are the recommendations of the County Welfare Committee whereby the County Council would co-operate with the District Councils to provide blocks of 14 to 16 bungalows together with a warden's house and communal room. I consider that there is a great social need for such units and that they should become a feature of all but the smallest of our communities. Under the National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47, and the National Assistance Amendment Act 1951 for the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living in insanitary conditions a number of cases were investigated but only one case was reported to the District Council and this was the case of an octogenarian at Lydney who was living in a filthy condition and unable to look after himself but resistant to entering a hospital. It is such cases as this that show the need for social work among the aged to prevent the isolation of such persons from society and their antagonism to efforts clearly necessary for their good. In this respect I am sure that the Old People's Care Committees which the County Community Council has asked the District Councils to assist in setting up would be of great value.

Anthrax Order 1938

There were only two notices received under this Order (one a pig at Bream and the other a cow at Hewelsfield), but in neither case was the disease confirmed.

Public Health Laboratory.

All samples of water and milk and other specimens were sent to the Newport Public Health Laboratory directed by Dr. R. D. Gray. The service received from this Laboratory was outstanding, the fullest possible assistance being given.

Analyst.

All samples of water for chemical analysis were sent to the Bristol University Laboratory (Mr. E. C. Whittle, Public Analyst), and very good service was given.

Notifications of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Registers)
Cinderford ..	12	17	15	4	66
Drybrook	7	2	8	3	46
Ruspidge	2	16	6	2	24
Awre	1	—	8	2	11
Mitcheldean ..	2	1	—	3	26
Littledean	20	9	1	—	12
Longhope	4	—	1	2	15
Ruardean	—	—	4	1	7
Churcham	—	—	2	—	5
Huntley	—	—	1	—	1
Blaisdon	1	1	—	—	3
Coleford	51	2	1	1	17
English Bicknor ..	1	—	—	—	1
Lydbrook	—	3	7	2	38
Joys Green	—	—	—	1	15
Redbrook	32	—	—	1	2
Clearwell	33	—	—	—	3
Bream	42	1	3	2	25
Ellwood	39	—	—	—	3
Broadwell	42	3	1	4	20
Berry Hill	9	1	—	4	19
Milkwall	25	2	—	—	6
Pillowell	28	1	9	3	18
Parkend	40	1	1	—	2
Yorkley	4	2	5	1	22
Viney Hill	—	—	5	—	2
Staunton	2	—	2	—	—
Lydney	45	—	1	3	27
Tidenham	80	1	—	4	18
St. Briavels	49	—	—	2	14
Aylburton	9	—	—	—	6
Woolaston	39	—	3	—	2
Hewelsfield	9	—	1	1	5
Alvington	26	—	—	—	5
MALE	336	30	45	24	273
FEMALE	318	33	40	22	213
TOTAL	654	63	85	46	486

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

An epidemic of this disease commenced in the Tidenham Parish in January and affected Broadwell in February and St. Briavels in March. From April until August most of the area was affected. Altogether 654 cases were notified and there was one death. This disease remains distressing although the general improvement of the nutrition of children and the use of newer drugs and antibiotics has reduced the incidence and severity of complications. This epidemic was part of the one affecting the County and the Country.

Whooping Cough

Only 63 cases were notified. These tended to be scattered but there was a preponderance at Cinderford in January and February, Ruspidge in March, and Soudley in September.

The County Council as Local Health Authority commenced a scheme at the beginning of June for the vaccination of infants against this disease. Such protection is given by three injections given at monthly intervals commencing at the fourth month. This scheme was well received by parents and 93 infants had completed the course by the end of the year.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases of this condition were very scattered but there was a preponderance in the Cinderford area during the last quarter of the year. The disease was mild.

Mumps

From March to July this was epidemic amongst the children at a majority of the Schools in the area.

Impetigo

This contagious skin condition was remarkably widespread throughout the area during the last quarter of the year, children at almost every school being affected.

Erysipelas

Six cases were notified during the year, two at Awre, and one each at Mitcheldean, Ruardean, Bream and Hewelsfield.

Puerperal Pyrexia

One rise of temperature only to 100.4 deg. F. during the 14 days of delivery requires notification. There were eight notifications.

Dysentery

There were seven notifications and five of these constituted the notified part of an epidemic which occurred amongst children at Drybrook, especially at the Council House Estate where it spread quickly.

Acute Primary Pneumonia

There were only four notifications of this infection, one in a man in the Lydney R.D., one a man in the East Dean R.D., and a man and a woman in West Dean R.D.

Meningococcal meningitis

A fulminating case of this disease arose at Woolaston and the doctor, because of the great importance of prompt treatment, speeded the case to hospital immediately in his own car. A complete recovery was obtained.

Acute encephalitis

One case was notified from Cinderford.

Chickenpox

This was epidemic amongst children at Aylburton in March, Tidenham in April, Ruardean Hill in July, Coleford in October and November and Pillowell in December.

Infectious Jaundice

There were some cases of this infection at Tidenham from January to March and an epidemic at Berry Hill and English Bicknor at the end of the year.

Rubella

There were cases in the Cinderford area from July onwards.

Diphtheria

For the seventh year in succession there was no case of diphtheria in the area. There is widespread appreciation amongst mothers of the victory that has been won over this disease by immunization. But the victory is not yet complete as cases arise elsewhere and so we cannot yet disarm; immunization is still necessary.

Annual Return of Diphtheria Immunization. Number of children immunized during the year.

	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Total	Booster Injections
East Dean	52	111	75	4	242	394
West Dean	46	114	43	6	209	362
Lydney R.D.	47	69	58	3	177	272
Totals	145	294	176	13	628	1028

Thus 628 children were protected to the 731 live births during the year, although only 145 were protected before their first birthdays. The good work done by doctors, health visitors, nurses and others in advising parents of the need for continued protection is of great value to the community. A far too high a proportion of parents do not have their children protected either because it is too much trouble or that they do not trust scientific knowledge and experience. Their children benefit from the efforts of others.

Tuberculosis

There were 46 new cases of this disease notified during the year compared with 53 in 1954 and there were nine deaths from it compared with 13 in 1954, and 28 in 1935. At the end of the year there were 486 names on the Registers of the three districts.

Notifications During the Year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
East Dean	5	11	1	—
West Dean	11	4	2	2
Lydney R.D.	4	4	1	1
Totals	20	19	4	3

Cases on Registers at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
East Dean	98	98	8	12
West Dean	106	54	20	13
Lydney R.D.	36	32	5	4
Totals	240	184	33	29

The conquest of this disease is steady. Unfortunately many infectious cases do not exercise that restraint and care that is so necessary to prevent the infection of others. It is often seen that new cases have been exposing themselves to unnecessary risks of infection. During the last decade several valuable new drugs have been of great value in the treatment of this disease. A fear has been expressed that these drugs would, by prolonging life, prolong infection and hence lead to an increase in the number of new cases. At present there is no sign of this happening generally although individual cases may suggest it. On the whole these drugs reduce infection and the surgical operations which are being done with increasing frequency have a similar effect. B.C.G. vaccination is now offered at school to thirteen year olds, who are found, by skin testing not to have been previously infected.

Smallpox Vaccination—Annual Return for 1955

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4	5—14	15 yrs. or over	Total
EAST DEAN						
(a) vaccinated	37	1	3	3	11	55
(b) re-vaccinated	—	—	—	1	11	12
WEST DEAN						
(a) vaccinated	8	5	1	—	2	16
(b) re-vaccinated	—	—	—	—	3	3
LYDNEY R.D.						
(a) vaccinated	23	7	1	7	18	56
(b) re-vaccinated	—	—	2	6	17	25
<hr/>						
TOTAL AREA						
(a) vaccinated	68	13	5	10	31	127
(b) re-vaccinated	—	—	2	7	31	40

These figures are supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health from the records received from general practitioners. The number of primary vaccinations was thus only 127 compared with 144 in 1954, and the number of vaccinations during the first year of life only 68 to the 731 live births. It is increasingly difficult to persuade parents of the need for this protection as the memory of this disease fades especially as the last epidemic here was of the mild type. So long as this disease exists in other countries vaccination will be of value. Vaccination in infancy gives some protection throughout life and makes later vaccinations less upsetting. If vaccination is left until cases arise then some persons are certain to be infected before they can be protected. Furthermore emergency vaccinations would then have to be done to all age groups including the teen-age group which is the group in which complications are most likely to arise.

Poliomyelitis

- (i) On the 20th August a boy of eight in Cinderford was taken ill and admitted to hospital. A diagnosis of probable non-paralytic poliomyelitis was made.
- (ii) On the 27th August a girl of 13, at Hewelsfield, was taken ill with this disease. During this quite severe illness she developed palatal paralysis from which she completely recovered.
- (iii) On 5th September a boy of nine at Yorkley was taken ill with what was probably non-paralytic poliomyelitis.
- (iv) On 6th October a case arose with severe paralyses in a woman of 36 at Aylburton.

- (v) On 12th October a boy of one and a half in Lydney developed paralysis of one leg from this disease.
- (vi) On 18th October a girl of seven in Cinderford was taken ill and admitted to hospital with what was probably non-paralytic poliomyelitis.
- (vii) On 24th October a girl of 11 at Lydney was taken ill with this disease and developed paralysis of one leg.

It will be noticed that all the paralytic cases arose in or near Lydney. Case (ii) was in Warwickshire from 10—22 days before being taken ill, but may have been infected after her return. No contact could be traced between her and the other cases, but she may have come into contact with them or their contacts. She visited the Lydney Swimming Pool a number of times during her incubation period. No direct contact could be traced between case (iv) and the other cases but case (vii) was known to have been in contact with the sister of case (v).

Food Poisoning

There were 17 notifications during the year, seven in East Dean, five in West Dean, and five in the Lydney R.D. One of those in West Dean and four in the Lydney R.D. were not confirmed and I became aware of two cases in food handlers which were not notified.

In the Lydney R.D. three cases were probably Sonne dysentery which had recovered by the time the notifications were received and one was a stomach upset in a person susceptible to them. One was in a man who travelled from London by train during the very hot weather and ate ham sandwiches which he had brought with him. No other case of illness could be traced to the same source and no doubt the illness was due to the toxins of bacteria which flourished in the ham during the hot train journey.

In the West Dean R.D. at the beginning of August, a man and his wife, together with their two children and another child in their care went to Barry by bus. They took with them sandwiches the wife had prepared from pressed meat bought in the village on the previous day. All were taken ill at Barry and were taken to hospital. The youngest child aged two was very ill for a while. *Staphylococcus aureus*, an organism which causes such food poisoning, was found in the rectal swabs from two of the children and also in some of the pressed meat remaining at the shop. No doubt it was the heat in the bus and on the sands which caused the organism present as a contaminant to grow and produce toxin in quantity. No other case arose from the same batch of meat although some of it was known to have been eaten and I ascribe this to the fact that it was kept in the relatively cool conditions in houses built into the bank at Lydbrook.

In the East Dean R.D. an elderly lady came to Cinderford for a holiday and brought a small piece of uncooked ham with her. This was stored for three days in a poor meat 'safe' and then cooked. She and the two people she stayed with were all taken ill three hours after eating some of this ham. The illness lasted three days. Meanwhile the remainder of the ham had been put back in the same poor meat store and two days later all three ate of it again. All were taken ill again. On bacteriological examination the ham gave a profuse growth of staphylococcus aureus and it was the toxins from this organism which caused the illnesses.

In Cinderford also were three cases, a man, wife and girl of eight who were taken ill three hours after eating ham which they had bought the same day at a shop in Gloucester. No other cases were traced to this food.

Another case of food poisoning arose in a man of 19 who took ham sandwiches with him to Barry when he cycled there on a very hot day.

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S., (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: A. D. PARSONS, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: G. M. HOPKINS, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
(Resigned 30th Sept.)
B. RISBY, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.
(Commenced 2nd Dec.)

RODENT OPERATOR: C. BARNARD (Commenced 3rd Aug.)

Statistics

Population=20,630 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1955)

Area=30,475 acres

Number of inhabited houses=6,208

Rateable Value=£62,145 (31st March, 1955). Product of 1d. Rate=£247 6s. 9d.

Number of Births=324. Number of deaths=202. Excess of Births over Deaths=122.

Birth Rate=15.7 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.04 this gives a corrected rate of 16.3.

Death Rate=9.8 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor for deaths of 1.02 this gives a corrected rate of 10.0.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	161	143	304	13	7	20	174	150	324
Still Births	3	5	8	—	—	—	3	5	8
Deaths of infants under 1 year	7	4	11	1	—	1	8	4	12
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	5	3	8	1	—	1	6	3	9

Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	2	4	6
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	13	22	35
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	12	14	26
Coronary disease and angina	3	7	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	17	22	39
Other circulatory diseases	3	7	10
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	4
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	10	1	11
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of the prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	10	17	27
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	93	109	202

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Number of Caravans	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
				(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Cinderford	7,141	2,136	7	2,135	—
Drybrook	2,981	895	7	872	—
Ruspidge	1,945	574	1	534	—
Awre	1,825	536	3	335	30
Mitcheldean	1,864	596	2	362	60
Littledean	1,267	402	—	340	—
Longhope	1,095	319	8	28	—
Ruardean	1,071	324	3	310	—
Churcham	682	207	4	68	—
Huntley	462	134	1	90	—
Blaisdon	297	85	—	20	—
Total East Dean R. D.	20,630	6,208	36	5,094	90

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply

Cinderford, Drybrook, Ruspidge, Ruardean and Littledean. Nearly all the properties in these parishes are served by the main Greenbottom Supply. Nineteen samples were taken during the year and submitted to bacteriological examination. All were reported on as satisfactory. Chemical analyses were likewise satisfactory.

AWRE PARISH

The laying of mains in this parish continued and by the end of the year some 85 properties were connected. This supply which is called the Southern Area Supply is from springs arising in the Blackpool Valley and pumped to a reservoir on Blakeney Hill. Four samples taken were all reported on as satisfactory.

MITCHELDEAN

Work was commenced to improve the supply to this parish. Samples from the Old Cement Works Supply, however, gave better results for of the 18 samples taken 15 were satisfactory and three showed slight contamination. This supply is quite unreliable and serious pollution may find access to it at any time. The laying of the new main from the main supply will allow this supply to be discarded.

ROOKERY SUPPLY

A sample from this supply on Plump Hill was reported on as polluted.

OLD GOLD MINE OR BAILEY LANE END SUPPLY

Of five samples taken from this source two were reported on as satisfactory, one as showing heavy contamination and two as showing gross contamination.

LONGHOPE

This Parish is supplied by 18 public wells and a number of other wells and springs. Samples from these showed varying amounts of pollution. The Hobbs Lane Supply which supplies 16 Council Houses and a few other properties showed only slight contamination. When 10 houses on the Royal Springs site were completed it was found that the water from the Lonehead Supply piped to them was polluted. Further work was then done to this source and this led to some improvement but its safety cannot be relied upon.

Churcham and Huntley are supplied by the Gloucester Corporation and now 68 properties at Churcham and 90 at Huntley are connected. The one sample taken during the year was reported on as bacteriologically satisfactory.

Sewerage

The Soudley Works which deals with the sewage from most of the properties in the parishes of Cinderford and Ruspidge and Drybrook village are very much overworked.

Ruardean, Littledean and Mitcheldean have small works which serve much of these parishes.

BLAKENEY

The Ministry's permission to proceed with the scheme to sewer this village was obtained. I consider this most fortunate as the need is great as was demonstrated in great detail by Mr. Parsons to the Ministry's Inspector at the Inquiry.

Housing Progress

I am grateful to Mr. L. A. Andrews, D.P.A., the Housing Officer, for the following table.

PARISH		1955	Council Houses		Total
			Pre-War	Post-War	
Cinderford	..	14	80	256	336
Drybrook	..	—	6	101	107
Ruspidge	..	15	26	59	85
Awre	..	8	—	31	31
Mitcheldean	..	12	6	104	110
Littledean	..	20	—	53	53
Longhope	..	10	6	24	30
Ruardean	..	4	10	53	63
Churcham	..	—	—	12	12
Huntley	..	—	—	8	8
Blaisdon	..	—	—	—	—
		83	134	701	835

		Houses built during the year			Unity
		Total	Traditional	Woolaway	
Cinderford	..	14	14		
Ruspidge	..	15		15	
Awre	..	8	8		
Mitcheldean	..	12		12	
Littledean	..	20		20	
Longhope	..	10			10
Ruardean	..	4	4		
		83	26	47	10

Private Houses

A total of 48 houses and bungalows were built privately during the year, making a total of 198 since 1946.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. J. A. N. Butterworth reports as follows:—

Water Supply Statistics

The total amount of water pumped during 1955 from the Greenbottom source amounted to 186,457,000 gallons, an increase of rather less than one million gallons over the total quantity supplied from the same source in 1954.

The bulk supply taken from the West Dean Rural District Council amounted during the year to 12,194,000 gallons, an increase of approximately two million gallons over the period March to December, 1954.

Total consumption from the three main sources therefore amounts to:—

Greenbottom	186,457,000
Blakeney	13,400,000
West Dean R.D.C.	12,194,000
	<hr/>
	212,051,000
	<hr/>

—which shows a total increased consumption of approximately five million gallons over the previous year.

Blakeney and Awre Scheme

During the year the main laying Contract was completed and a number of properties in the Blakeney and Awre Districts are now enjoying a piped supply for the first time. A number of applications for a water supply are still outstanding but these are being completed as quickly as circumstances permit.

Mitcheldean

Considerable improvements have been effected to the supply in the Plump Hill District of Mitcheldean by carrying out interconnections between the six inch Trunk main and the existing systems. The supply from the Old Cement Works is still being utilised, but it is hoped to discontinue this supply during 1956 when the present main laying contract is completed.

Distribution

During this year it was possible to arrange for the thorough cleaning and sterilising of the Ruardean Hill Reservoir. Mains extensions have been completed during the year to serve existing

houses mainly at Blaize Bailey, Shapridge and Crooked End, Ruardean.

New connections to the Council's Water Mains, both for private and Council Houses, totalled about 200, of which 85 were carried out in the Parish of Awre.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. A. D. Parsons reports as follows:—

Drainage and Sewerage

Again, considerable time was spent giving advice and visiting properties in connection with improved drainage and installation of small sewerage plants in rural areas where the sewer is not available.

Public Cleansing

The three same contractors continued to collect from all the outlying parishes except Cinderford and parts of Drybrook and Soudley parishes. Apart from Bilson tip there are four recognised tipping sites, two on open forest ground which are fenced and two on private ground. Considering that they are semi-controlled tipping sites they give rise to very little trouble from paper, rodents or crickets.

The public are becoming more conscious of litter in the streets and beauty spots and a greater number of street litter bins and baskets have been sited throughout the district to help the anti-litter campaign.

Water Supply

Ninety-eight samples of water were taken from various sources of which 86 were for bacteriological examination and 12 were for chemical analysis. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Services, Newport, Mon., and Canynge Hall, Bristol, respectively. . .

Piped Supplies	88
Public Wells	9
Private Wells	1
Satisfactory	65
Slightly Contaminated	13
Contaminated	5
Heavily Contaminated	9
Grossly Contaminated	6
	—
Total	98
	—

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for the production of hot mix:— 0
Number of premises registered for the production of cold mix:— 4
Number of premises registered for the production Storage & sale: 64

Sixty-three samples of ice-cream were collected of various makes and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newport, Mon., for examination by the Methylene Blue Test. These were reported on by means of grades:—

Grade 1	55
Grade 2	6
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	1
	—
Total	63
	—

Rodent Control

Mr. T. Adams was appointed and started his duties as Rodent Operator, but owing to health reasons was unable to continue after 20th May, 1955. Mr. C. Barnard was appointed to fill the vacancy and commenced his duties on 3rd August. He has proved himself a most efficient employee.

Number of properties in Local Authority's District	..	6,910
Number of properties inspected in the district	.. ..	378
Number of properties infested in the district—Rats	..	101
Number of properties treated by Local Authority	..	109
Number of properties infested in the district---Mice	..	8

Milk and Dairies. Regulations 1949—54

Number of registered distributors of milk	.. ..	28
Number of registered dairies	.. ..	8

Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54

Number of licences to retail sterilised milk	.. ..	0
Number of licences to retail pasteurised milk	.. ..	14
Number of licences to retail pasteurised milk (supplementary)		2
Number of licences to retail T.T. milk	.. ..	10
Number of licences to retail T.T. milk (supplementary)	..	2

Sampling

During the year 39 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Gloucester. All were satisfactory according to the statutory tests respective to their designations.

Inspections and Visits

Milk	94
Health	1,152
Housing	521
Shops	11
Factories	41
Drainage	200
Food and Drugs	316
Pests	79
Slaughterhouse	523
Water	127
Caravans	64
Cleansing	135
Miscellaneous	107
Total	<u>3,370</u>

Condemned Meat

5 carcasses of cows	3,366 lbs.
1 carcase of calf	63 „
3 carcasses of sheep	155 „
5 carcasses of pigs	286 „
Mutton part carcasses	5 „
Pork part	8 „
42 Bovine Heads	1,344 „
Bovine Livers	3,764 „
Bovine Livers part	1,558 „
Sheeps livers	1,502 „
Pigs livers	87 „

Other Foods Condemned

Meat tins	..	..	..	76
Carcase Meat lbs.	..	..	..	1,978
Fish lbs.	..	..	..	35
Ham lbs.	..	..	..	12
Corn Beef	..	..	..	19
Veal tins	..	..	..	7
Meat Paste jars	..	..	..	2
Sheeps tongues tins	..	..	..	4
Vegetables tins	..	..	..	117
Fruit tins	..	..	..	92
Dried Fruit lbs.	..	..	..	70
Soup tins	..	..	..	53
Milk tins	..	..	..	36
Cream tins	..	..	..	2
Golden Syrup tins	..	..	..	1
Spaghetti tins	..	..	..	1
Malt Extract tins	..	..	..	1
Dried Eggs cartons	..	..	..	1
Dried Eggs tins	..	..	..	4
Chutney jars	..	..	..	1
Orange Curd jars	..	..	..	1
Cake Mixture pkts.	..	..	..	72
Confectionery ozs.	..	..	..	12
Confectionery boxes	..	..	..	2
Puff Pastry lbs.	..	..	..	1

Moveable Dwellings

Sixty-four visits and inspections were carried out in connection with moveable dwellings. A licence was granted in respect of a site for the seasonal period only where a satisfactory water supply and sanitary conveniences had been provided. Two applications for site licences were refused and a third granted subject to certain conditions being fulfilled.

Caravan Licences Granted

New caravan licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	4
Renewal caravan licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	34
Site caravan licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						39

Factories Act 1937—48

Forty-one visits and inspections were made to factories in the district.

Number of factories in register	..	..	..	22
Number of fire escape certificates	..	..	..	2

Meat

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
Number killed (if known) ..	1,175	66	203	5,838	2,256	—	9,538
Number in- spected ..	1,175	66	203	5,838	2,256	—	9,538
All diseases ex- cept Tuberculosis and Cysticeri							
Whole carcases condemned	—	5	1	3	5	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	3	—	12	48	—	
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticeri	3.06	12.12	.49	.26	2.35	—	
Tuberculosis only:							
Whole carcases condemned ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	2			23		
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis ..	2.55	3.03			.98		
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases sub- mitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Pet Animals Act 1951

A renewal licence was again granted to the only pet shop in this district as it continued to be run very satisfactorily according to the Act.

Analysis

				Casualties	Others	Total
Cattle	..	..	..	1	1,174	1,175
Cows	..	..	..	2	64	66
Calves	..	..	..	2	201	203
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	8	5,830	5,838
Pigs	..	..	..	28	2228	2,256
Total				41	9,497	9,538

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933—54

Fifteen slaughtermen are licensed to slaughter animals in the district.

Food

Although only 11 inspections were made directly connected with shops there were 316 inspections and visits to premises which were in some way connected with food.

Number of cafes in the district	..	..	..	7
Number of School canteens in the district	..	..	..	19
Number of works canteens in the district	..	..	..	6
Number of bakehouses in the district	..	..	..	17
Number of butchers' shops in the district		..	..	26
Number of Fish and Chip premises in the district	..	..		8
Number of Hotels, Inns, and Clubs in the district	..	..		68
Number of Ice Cream vendors in the district		..	..	68

Housing

Some five hundred and twenty-one visits and inspections were made in connection with Housing. In compliance with section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 which requires Local Authorities to submit proposals for dealing with unfit properties, a preliminary survey of the district was made and the following return was made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Estimated number of unfit properties	..	..	..	550
Estimated number of properties in Clearance Areas	..			129

These figures were subject to amendment as the detailed survey proceeded.

Number of Informal Notices	..	..	..	..	25
Number of Statutory Notices	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Demolition Orders	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Closing Orders	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Clearance Areas	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Undertakings accepted	..	..	..	..	2

Public Health

Considerable time was given to this work, due mainly to complaints made and advisory interviews given. These complaints which may appear trivial mean a great deal to the complainants and they require a great deal of patience, tact and understanding. Some 1,152 inspections and visits were made and very little time was left for routine inspections and re-visits.

Water Analyses

	Gr'nbottom Supply (addit.) 21.9.55	Blakeney Supply 13.9.55	Mitcheldean Supply 13.9.55	Blaisdon Supply 13.9.55	Rookery Supply 13.9.55	Longhope Lonehead Supply 13.9.55
Physical Reaction pH	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.3	8.0	7.8
Odour	nil	slight-earthly	nil	nil	nil	nil
Charring on ignition of solids	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Chemical (parts per million):						
Total Solids	286	278	416	508	288	350
Loss on ignition	88	98	40	164	70	24
Mineral matter	198	180	376	344	218	326
Hardness, Total	266	256	392	486	256	330
Permanent	143	133	89	206	121	127
Temporary	123	123	303	280	135	203
Chlorine (as Chloride)	14	16	12	21	16	14
Nitrogen as saline and free ammonia	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
as albuminoid ammonia	nil	0.04	nil	0.01	nil	nil
Nitrates	1.78	0.79	2.48	0.99	1.49	0.20
Nitrites	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Poisonous metals	nil	nil	nil	nil	trace Zn.	trace Zn.
Free Carbon Dioxide	—	—	—	—	—	—
Silica (SiO2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Residual Chlorine	—	—	0.04	—	—	—
Sediment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bacteriological						
Number of colonies per ml. of original water						
Developing at 37 deg. C.	1	9	220	14	1	1
Developing at 20—22 deg. C.	66	220	6	300	50	48
Probable number of Coli-aerogenes per 100 mls. of original water	0	1	0	5	8	0
Faecal B.coli	absent	present	absent	absent	present	absent

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector: W. T. BEBB, M.S.I.A.

Rodent Operator: E. NELMES (also part-time trainee in-
specter).

Statistics

Population=17,890 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1955)

Area=25,154 acres

Number of inhabited houses=5,436

Rateable Value=£54,127. Product of 1d. Rate=£195 6s. 8d. (at 31st March 1955)

Number of Live Births=259. Number of Deaths=196. Excess of Births over
Deaths=63.

Birth Rate=14.5 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by
the area comparability factor of 1.06 this gives a corrected rate of 15.3.

Death Rate=10.9 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the
area comparability factor of 0.98 this gives a corrected rate of 10.5.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	147	103	250	7	2	9	154	105	259
Still Births	5	3	8	—	—	—	5	3	8
Deaths of infants under 1 year	3	3	6	1	—	1	4	3	7
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	3	5	1	—	1	3	3	6

Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	3	—	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	17	18	35
Diabetes	2	2	4
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	7	17	24
Coronary disease and angina	18	8	26
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	24	18	42
Other circulatory diseases	2	4	6
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	9	4	13
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	5	—	5
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of the prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	4	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	6	6	12
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	5	3	8
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	108	88	196

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH’S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply

Of the 231,328,000 gallons pumped during the year, 171,855,000 gallons were from the Lime Kiln Pool Springs at Lydbrook and 59,473,000 gallons from the Redbrook Springs. The use of the Lime Kiln Pool Springs enabled the rapid increase of consumption to be met and for 33,400 gallons per day to be supplied to the East Dean R.D.C. Regular sampling is done by the Sanitary Inspector acting in collaboration with the Engineer and Surveyor.

Sewerage

Coleford and the Berry Hill and Mile End parts of the West Dean Parish only are connected to the disposal works at Newland. Bream, Lydbrook and Broadwell badly need to be sewered. The fact that so much of the District is not connected to a sewer makes many nuisances leading as it does to polluted streams and a large number of septic tanks. The condition of the Whitecliff stream has been a subject of complaint this being clearly due to the sewage and trade effluent from the Fruit Juice Factory at Coleford. The

Council's Consulting Engineers are advising on the steps necessary to abate this nuisance and I trust that it will not be long before some action is taken.

Housing Progress

I am grateful to Mr. A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, for the following table.

	Council Houses built			Total
	1955	Pre-War	Post War (including 1955)	
Coleford	24	166	148	314
English Bicknor	—	8	20	28
Staunton	—	—	4	4
Newland	—	48	2	50
Lydbrook	—	68	62	130
West Dean	39	302	358	660
	63	592	594	1,186

Of the houses built in 1955, 12 were Cornish Units, 34 Holcots and 17 traditional type.

Private Houses: 22 were completed during the year making 118 during the post war period.

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
West Dean	10,386	3,152	2,457
Coleford	3,307	1,041	943
English Bicknor	509	149	125
Lydbrook	2423	753	632
Newland	1075	331	262
Staunton	190	66	63
TOTAL R.D. ..	17,890	5,492	4,482

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT

Mr. W. T. Bebb reports as follows :

Housing

- (a) Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936
 - (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the demolition orders were made 10
 - (ii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted:
 - (a) That the houses would cease to be used for human habitation 4

(b)	That the houses would be rendered fit to the satisfaction of the L.A.	8
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses rendered fit . .	1
(b)	Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, amended by Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	
(i)	Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in lieu of Demolition Orders	5
(ii)	Number of Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders made	1
(c)	Action under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	
	Part of dwelling houses closed	Nil

No progress whatever was made with the demolition of houses subject to clearance or demolition orders. In fact, although some properties were pulled down, the overall numbers actually increased due to the addition of properties condemned during the year.

One of the occupied condemned cottages was vacated and eleven were demolished.

The present position is as follows:—

	Unoccupied	Occupied
(a) Houses subject to demolition orders	56	8
(b) Houses subject to clearance orders	36	4
(c) Houses subject to undertakings not to relet	9	5
(d) Houses subject to closing orders . .	14	Nil

Housing Survey

In order to formulate proposals for dealing with houses within the district considered to be unfit for human habitation, for submission to the Ministry, it was found necessary to carry out a completely new housing survey.

Every house, irrespective of rateable value, was visited, all relevant details ascertained, and the property placed in one or other of the Categories as used in the 1946 survey.

From the results as illustrated in the table of categories below, it can be seen that the standard of housing accommodation in West Dean is extremely low. This is to a large extent accounted for by a type of house, built approximately 100 years ago from a very soft sandstone found locally, which when built relied for water generally on a reservoir of collected roof water, and where no thought was given to the provision of sinks, drains or other amenities. Since their erection, no improvements whatever have been carried out in most instances, although obviously serious deteriorations have taken place.

Table of Categories into which Houses were placed.

Houses in West Dean R.D.C. 5,492	Coleford		Eng. Bicknor		Lydbrook		Newland		Staunton		West Dean		Total	
	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage
Cat. 1 ..	183	17.6	22	14.6	52	6.9	55	16.6	14	21.2	405	12.9	731	13.3
Cat. 2 ..	283	27.2	29	19.1	132	17.5	69	20.8	12	18.1	588	18.1	1113	20.3
Cat. 3 ..	383	36.8	45	30.2	273	36.3	103	31.2	35	53.0	1156	36.7	1995	36.3
Cat. 5 ..	192	18.4	53	35.6	296	39.3	104	31.4	5	4.9	1003	31.8	1653	30.1

It is obvious that it was not possible to deal in the foreseeable future with 30.09 % of the total houses in the district. Three hundred and nine of the worst were therefore picked out and it was this number which was eventually submitted to the Minister.

Out of a multitude of facts which emerged as a result of the survey one which is very rarely quoted but which is nevertheless most interesting is given in the table below.

Table of Owner-Occupiers

PARISH	Colef'rd	English Bicknor	Lydbr'k	Newl'nd	Staunt'n	West Dean	Total
Owner-Occupied Houses	397	62	390	113	53	1,618	2,633
Total Houses	1,041	149	753	331	66	3,152	5,492
Percentages	38.2	41.61	51.8	34.2	80.3	51.3	47.9

Water Supply

Forty-four samples of water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:

Main Supply

SOURCE	No. of Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Springs serving Redbrook supply (Before chlorination) ..	3	2	1
Limekiln Pool Springs (Before chlorination)	3	3	Nil
Direct from taps on main supply (After chlorination)	12	12	Nil

Other Sources

SOURCE	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Wells	15	8	7
Private Springs or Wells ..	11	4	7

The number of properties now obtaining their supply of water from the 28 Public Wells in the district is 128, as compared with 135 in 1954, and 155 in 1953. Of these the number with no main available remains at 63.

Milk and Dairies

Registration of persons distributing milk

Number on register at beginning of 1955	..	..	..	11
Removed from register during year	..	..	..	Nil
Added to register	..	..	..	1
				—
Total distributors at end of year	..	..	..	12
				—

The number of producer-retailers dropped from 33 in 1954 to 30 at the end of 1955.

Registration of premises used as dairies

The number of registered dairies remained at five.

Licences authorising the use of Special Designations were issued as follows:—

(a) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk), Regulations, 1949.

(i) Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(ii) Supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

(b) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

(i) Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
(ii) Supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

In addition 10 producer-retailers distribute only Tuberculin tested milk produced at their own farms.

Sampling

A total of 87 samples of milk were collected and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Results were as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test	
Raw Milk		Past. Milk		Past. Milk	
S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.
33	17	30	7	34	3

As a matter of routine all raw milks submitted to the Newport Laboratory are tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli by animal inoculation. Not one of the 50 samples submitted were found to be positive.

No tests for the presence of *Brucella Abortus* were carried out.

Ice Cream

Registration of Premises for the Sale, Storage or Manufacture of Ice Cream

Number on register at beginning of 1955	.. ..	57
Removed from register after service of necessary notices		1
Added to register	.. .. .	2
		—
Total registered premises at end of year		58
		—

Apart from one retailer who manufactures his own ice cream by the “hot mix” method, all retailers now sell ice cream manufactured by one or other of four manufacturing companies. Four persons still make their own ice cream from a complete “cold mix.”

Of the ice cream samples taken 85 % were Grade 1 and 15 % Grade 11.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses

The amount of meat killed at the licensed slaughterhouse decreased as the year progressed and, except for a small number of lambs, faded out almost completely by the summer.

The number of animals killed was as follows:—

Beasts	Calves	Swine	Sheep & Lambs
73	12	51	356

An 100 % inspection of animals killed was carried out.

Meat and other Foods

The quantity of food condemned at shops and other food premises was:—

290½ lbs. of carcase meat comprising:
110 lbs. for bruising
163 lbs for bone taint
17½ lbs. for decomposition
48 tins of assorted food stuffs (total weight 175 lbs)

General

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Eleven licences to slaughter animals were granted under the Act during 1955.

Caravan Sites

Nineteen licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to use parcels of land for a total of 21 caravans.

Means of escape in case of fire

Four certificates of “Means of escape in case of fire” were issued.

Outworkers

111 persons were notified by one factory in the district specialising in the manufacture of pins, hair grips, metal fasteners, etc., as being employed by them as outworkers.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide

Premises licensed in 1954 for the keeping of petroleum spirit and calcium carbide were:—

Petroleum Spirit	..	..	..	..	..	60
Calcium Carbide	..	..	..	..	..	22

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Number of properties inspected	..	..	..	1,204
Number found to be infested by rats	..	..	..	83
Number found to be infested by mice	..	..	..	19
Number of infestations treated by				
(a) Operator	..	..	..	101
(b) By reference to A.E.C.	..	..	..	1

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S NOTES

Mr. H. Parks, M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E., A.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

Water Supply

(a) **Rainfall:** During the year the total rainfall amounted to 33.67 inches, as recorded at the Redbrook Pumping Station.

There was no unduly heavy rainfall in any one month of the year, May and June and, of course, November and December being the four heaviest months, but on no occasion was the precipitation so heavy as to give rise to run-off difficulties or possible contamination of supplies.

The total rainfall for the year was more or less average in spite of the fact that exceptionally sunny periods were enjoyed throughout the whole of the Summer and Autumn months. On the other hand the total rainfall was considerably less than that of 1954, and may well have a sequel during 1956.

It is pleasing to note that at no time were any restrictions necessary in the district on account of shortage of supplies.

(b) **Supply Statistics:** The whole of the water for the West Dean area has to be pumped, and the total amounts so pumped during 1955 amounted to 231,328,000 gallons of which approximately 12,000,000 gallons would be supplied to East Dean Rural District Council and a like amount to one of the main industries of the district.

I set out below a table showing the total annual amount pumped, together with the average consumption per head of population for each of the previous five years 1950—54 inclusive, and it will be seen from this that the present-day consumption is more than 50% higher than that of 1950, whilst the amount pumped is very nearly 100% greater.

Date	Annual Amount Pumped	Average Consumption
1950	120,000,000 galls.	20 galls
1951	126,655,000 galls.	20 galls.
1952	131,000,000 galls.	21 galls.
1953	147,429,000 galls.	23 galls.
1954	202,967,000 galls.	26.5 galls.
1955	231,328,000 galls.	31.25 galls.

(c) **Distribution Details:** The Council have had a very active year in this respect, and the schemes put in hand are as follows:—

1. The provision of a new Booster Pumping Station at Lower Yorkley to ensure an adequate supply for Yorkley Slade.
2. The laying of a three inch link main from Bowson Road, Bream, to Pike House, Parkend, to augment the supplies at Parkend.
3. The laying of a three inch link main from Sling to Stowe Green to augment the supplies in that area.
4. The laying of new mains, mainly of three inch or four inch diameter, at Coombs Park, Coleford, and Staunton.
5. The installation of pressure reducing valves on the mains at Whitecroft where the pressure is excessive.
6. The laying of a new trunk main from Hangerberry through Lydbrook to augment the supplies in the village.
7. The construction of a new break pressure tank at Horslea, Lydbrook, to improve supplies at Joys Green and Horslea.
8. The installation of new switch gear at the Lydbrook Pumping Station to enable more intensive use to be made of the whole of the pumping equipment.
9. The laying of a new nine inch trunk main from Mile End to Sling reservoir.

In addition to the above the new water storage tower at Yorkley was completed and brought into action, and has proved a most valuable addition to the distribution scheme.

A considerable number of new meters were installed at premises where the existing meter had become defective, and a total of 103 new connections were made to the Council's mains.

So far as quite a number of the above-mentioned schemes are concerned it must be admitted that as yet they are mostly in the preparatory stage, and there may be more positive results to report during 1956.

2 Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

So far public sewerage schemes and disposal works have been provided only for Coleford and Berry Hill, and for the remainder of the district the sewers are exclusively housing estate sewers with disposal works for Council Houses.

(a) **Public Sewers and Disposal Works:** During the year the main sewage disposal works at Newland were well maintained, frequent visits being made by Inspectors of the Wye River Board and samples taken with satisfactory results.

Disposal of sludge presents a problem at this Works, but during the long dry summer period it was possible to burn the whole of the accumulation.

Six private premises, one school and eighty-eight Council Houses were connected to the new sewers at Berry Hill and the low level pumping station brought into use.

(b) **Council House Estate Sewers and Disposal Works:** Serving the Council Housing Estates are no less than fourteen small disposal works of varying size, and numerous septic tanks or soak pit arrangements. These entail considerable attention during the year and also considerable expense both by contract sludge emptying and other aspects of maintenance.

One new disposal works was added during the year to serve pre-war Council Houses and sewers were laid for these properties, whilst at the same time water flushing lavatories were installed at the properties. The number of houses so improved was 64.

In other cases the Works have been well maintained, necessitating on some sites the stripping down, incorporation of new parts, and re-building of the distributors.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

(a) **Collection:** Throughout 95% of the district a weekly collection is operated, and in the remaining 5% a fortnightly collection, except for one or two places where the properties are quite inaccessible and in these instances special arrangements are made twice each year for the clearance of unburnable refuse such as bottles and tins.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the year in maintaining an adequate labour organisation, some of the operatives having left for other work which is both more remunerative and not so exposed or unpleasant.

Added to this difficulty is the usual winter difficulty of dangerous roads or roads completely blocked with snow drifts, but in spite of all these factors there has been very little complaint of lack of service.

(b) **Refuse Disposal:** At the start of the year the Council had no less than seven tips for the disposal of refuse, and though this has saved quite an appreciable expense in transport and time in the past it has meant considerable extra expense in the soiling over and sealing, particularly on the closing down of the tip. In view of expense of closing down and the fact that all of the tips have reached the end of their useful life, the Council have taken over two new quarries for the starting of new tips. At the close of the year the Council was engaged in arranging contracts for all the disused tips to be covered over with soil and bulldozed so as to leave clean and tidy.

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector: W. M. RICHARDS, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
Rodent Operator and
Inspector: R. C. REED, A.R.I.P.H.H. (also part-
time other Health Dept. duties)
Commenced 21/1/55.

Statistics

Population=12,090 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1955)

Area=25,544 acres

Number of inhabited houses=3,524

Rateable Value=£51,382. Product of 1d. Rate=£196 0s. 5½d.

Number of Births=148. Number of Deaths=113. Excess of Births over Deaths
=35.

Birth Rate=12.25 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied
by the area comparability factor of 1.12 this gives a corrected rate of 13.7.

Death Rate=9.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the
area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives a corrected rate of 9.6.

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Legitimate		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	68	75	143	1	4	5	69	79	148
Still Births	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	2	4
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	2	4	—	—	—	2	2	4

Causes of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ..	—	—	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms ..	9	12	21
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	9	15	24
Coronary disease and angina	10	3	13
Hypertension with heart disease	—	3	3
Other heart disease	10	15	25
Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	—	—	—
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ..	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of the prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	56	57	113

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY NOTES

Water Supply

Lydney Main Supply. Ferneyley Supply. Three samples were taken from taps on this supply, two were reported on as satisfactory and one as showing slight contamination.

Tufts Supply. Of the five samples taken from taps on this supply only one was reported on as satisfactory, two showed slight contamination, one contamination and one heavy contamination. It is most unfortunate that this supply has still to be used for domestic purposes.

Tidenham. The lower parts of this Parish are supplied by the Chepstow Water Company and the one sample taken was satisfactory.

St. Briavels and Hewelsfield. The High Level Scheme to supply these two Parishes proceeded very slowly. Samples from the two standpipes on the St. Briavels village supply were reported on as being heavily contaminated. A sample from the Brockweir village supply showed slight contamination. Two samples from the

Merricks Brook supply showed heavy contamination. This supply is an open stream and supplies Brockweir School and some Council Houses. It will be replaced by the new scheme.

Woolaston. This parish is poorly supplied. The small supply piped from the Common is inadequate; of two samples taken from it one was satisfactory and the other contaminated. A sample taken from the well at Woodside was satisfactory.

Fence, St. Briavels. A sample taken from this private supply was satisfactory.

Underwood Stroat. A sample taken from this small supply was reported on as showing heavy contamination.

Hollywell, Aylburton Common. A sample from this was satisfactory.

Sewerage

Considerable progress was made on the Aylburton Scheme. The central parts of the villages of Alvington and St. Briavels badly need to be sewered and so does the Allastone part of Lydney.

Swimming Pools

Bathurst Swimming Pool. Of the four samples taken only one showed any contamination. Special care was taken by the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor that the water in this pool was continuously and adequately chlorinated for during the hot summer it was very crowded. This was especially important as one of the cases of poliomyelitis used this bath several times while incubating this disease.

Beachley Swimming Pool. This pool is filled with sea water from the Severn Estuary. The two samples taken were bacteriologically satisfactory and showed some free residual chlorine.

Housing Progress

I am grateful to Mr. H. I. Spratt, the Surveyor, for the following table:—

	Council Houses completed			Total
	1955	Pre-war and up to 1946	Post-war including 1954	
Lydney	24	235	240	475
Tidenham	46	50	154	204
St. Briavels	4	8	14	22
Aylburton	10	8	28	36
Woolaston	—	12	22	34
Hewelsfield	—	6	4	10
Alvington	—	14	15	29
	84	333	477	810

Of the 84 houses completed during the year, 18 at Lydney and 4 at Tidenham were of the Unity type and 32 Cornish Units were built at Tidenham, the others being traditional.

Private Houses. Seventeen private houses were completed; 4 at Lydney, 10 at Tidenham, 2 at Aylburton, 1 at Woolaston. This brings the total built post-war to 105.

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

Parish	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Lydney	5,086	1,599	1,516	
Tidenham	2,620	836	592	10
St. Briavels	1,076	364	8	
Aylburton	776	230	152	
Woolaston	795	241	133	11
Hewelsfield	440	135	39	
Alvington	427	119	93	4
TOTALS	*11,220	3,524	2,533	25

*This is 870 less than the Registrar General's estimate of 12,070 in order to allow for the personnel and Apprentices at the Beachley Army Apprentices' School.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. M. Richards reports as follows:—

Housing

Demolition and Closing Orders	Houses
(1) Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs Act, 1954	
Part B. Houses not included in Clearance Area	
Housing Act, 1936	
(a) Demolished—formal or informal (Sec. 11)	0
(b) Closed—undertaking by owners still in force (Sec. 11)	7
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Sec. 12)	0
(2) Housing Act, 1949	
(a) Closed by Closing Orders (Sec. 3 (1) & 3 (2))	0
(3) Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953	
Closed by Closing Orders (Sec. 10 (1) & 11 (2))	0
Repairs in the Period	
(4) Houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied by informal action by Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	9

(5) Public Health Acts Action after formal notice.

Houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) by owners	4
(b) by Local Authority	0

(6) Housing Act, 1936, Action after formal notice.

Houses made fit—(a) by owners	15
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

(7) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Sec. 5)	0
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Part C. Unfit houses in temporary use.

(8) Position at end of period

(a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Sec. 7	0
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) above	0
(c) Houses licensed for temporary occupation (Sec. 6)	0

Part D. Purchase of houses by agreement.

(9) Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period	0
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Note:—A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Slum Clearance Proposals (Sec. 1)

Number of houses inspected 540

Number of houses submitted to the Council for consideration 131

(Lydney 55; Aylburton 4; Alvington 7; Woolaston 15; Tidenham 28; St. Briavels 10; Hewelsfield 12). These figures are not based on a house-to-house survey, but are a broad estimate which can be revised later when the final survey has been completed.

Overcrowding

Few of the overcrowded cases investigated were relieved.

Condemned Properties

Licences to occupy seven condemned properties were again issued for six-monthly periods.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Secs. 268—69)

Number of Visits	27
Licences granted during the year:—	
(a) To use Land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	0
(b) To use or station and use a Moveable Dwelling	0
(c) Renewal of licences	10
(d) Application for licence refused	0
(e) Licences cancelled (no application for renewal)	5

Number on Register:—Lydney	7
Woolaston	1
Hewelsfield	2

Water supply—Nine sites are supplied by tap or standpipe, one from Public well.

Disinfection

Number of premises disinfected:—Tuberculosis	7
Other Diseases	18
Verminous	4
Total	29

Water Supply

Seventy-three samples taken from various sources were submitted for analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, Mon.

Piped supplies	27
Swimming Pools	14
Public and Private Wells	32
Total	73

Summary of Reports

Bacteriologically satisfactory	17
Slight contamination	15
Heavy contamination	12
Gross contamination	10
Total	54

Samples taken for free Chlorine: 19.

SOURCE	Number of samples	Free Residual Chlorine	Total Residual Chlorine
Ferneyley	2	0.06 ppm Nil	Nil Nil
Tufts Level	4	0.15 ppm Nil Nil Nil	Nil Nil Nil Nil
Half Acre Cafe, Lydney ..	5	0.09 ppm Nil Nil Nil	0.1 ppm Nil Nil Nil
Chepstow Water Supply ..	1	Nil	Nil
Bathurst Swimming Pool ..	4	0.03 ppm Nil 0.2 ppm 0.35 ppm	0.04 ppm Nil 0.5 ppm Nil
Beachley Swimming Pool ..	2	0.06 ppm 0.04 ppm	0.1 ppm 0.4 ppm
Horage Spring, Purlieu ..	1	Nil	0.03 ppm

Milk and Diaries Regulations, 1949

Dairies not at farm	1
Distributors	18

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—54

Licences granted by the County Council	1
Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk sold from Sedbury Dairies Ltd.	7

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—54

Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation 'Tuberculin Tested' Milk (Pasteurised)	6
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Thirty-three samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination. (Schools 13; In course of delivery 20).

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—54

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Newport Laboratory	16	0
The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—54		
Newport Laboratory	15	2

Biological: 27 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination. Animal inoculation tests on all specimens yielded negative results to tuberculosis.

There are 16 registered retailers residing in the district. Two reside outside the district. Seven retailers draw their milk supplies, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested, in bottles from Sedbury Dairies Ltd., thus dispensing with the necessity of individual dairies.

Sedbury Dairies Ltd.

Number of Producers	32
Average daily throughput of milk	1,506 gallons, plus 250 gallons from C.W.S. Dairy, Chepstow.
Bottles (daily average)	19,000

Twelve pint bottles taken from the washing machine were submitted for examination:—These bottle washes were satisfactory. Colony Count per bottle:—30 to 231 colonies.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952

Number on the Register:—Retailer Producer—Prepacked	28
Retailer Producer—Cold mix	2
Retailer Producer—Hot mix	0

Seven samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination:—						
Details:	Grade	I	II	III	IV	Total
		7	0	0	0	7

Methylene Blue Test

Grade I—Samples **not** decolourised at the end of four hours 7

All premises registered for sale of ice-cream sell only in pre-packed containers. Thirty-six visits have been made and no action has been found necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream or the condition of premises.

Meat Regulations

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out in the afternoon and evening of Monday and Tuesday in each week and it has been possible to maintain a 100 per cent. inspection of all food animals slaughtered.

During the year ended 31st December, 1955, the following animals have been slaughtered in the two licensed premises:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	220	—	8	737	245	—
Number in- spected ..	220	—	8	737	245	—
All diseases ex- cept tuberculosis and cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	51	—	—	95	12	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	23.1 %	—	—	12.8 %	5.3 %	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis ..	1.8 %	—	—	—	1.2 %	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases sub- mitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Amount of Meat and other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

BOVINE:	1 Carcase	560 lbs.		
	2 Bovine heads	63 lbs.		
	50 Bovine livers	503 lbs.		
	2 Bovine lungs	24 lbs.		
	Offal	60 lbs.	Total	1,210
SHEEP and LAMBS:	95 Sheep livers	149 lbs.	Total	149 lbs.
PIGS:	1 Pig carcase	140 lbs.		
	4 Pig plucks	22 lbs.		
	4 Pig heads	44 lbs.		
	7 Pig livers	24 lbs.	Total	230 lbs.
				1,589 lbs.

OTHER FOODS		
Various foodstuffs	468 tins	
Fish	7 stone	
Cooked hams	3 (average weight 11 lbs.)	

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for year ending 31st December, 1955.

Reports for year ending 31st December, 1955

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All others including Business premises
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of:—			
(a) Notification	—	32	7
(b) Survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	7	530	384
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for other purposes)	2	28	142
Total inspections including re-inspections	14	661	563
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:—			
(a) Rats			
Major ..	—	—	1
Minor ..	2	71	16
(b) Mice			
Major ..	—	—	—
Minor ..	1	16	4
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	3	85	15
Number of Block Control schemes carried out	—	6	3

The above figures are for a period of 11 months as the newly appointed Rodent Inspector/Operative did not commence duty until the end of January.

A comprehensive programme of sewer treatments was carried out in March and selected manholes in the Lydney system were treated again in November.

All refuse tips were inspected frequently and infestations treated. In my opinion the year's work has justified the decision to appoint a full-time Officer to inspect and deal with infestations.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during Year 1955.

	Number	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Total inspected by Sanitary Inspector
COASTWISE					
Steamers	7	514	0	0	0
*Motors	502	29,135	0	0	32
Sailing	299	19,738	0	0	14
Fishing	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	808	49,387	0	0	46

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.
No Foreign shipping entered the Port during the Year.

Cargo Imported	Logs	15,542 tons
Cargo Exported	Coal	82,615 tons
Total—Cargo inwards and outwards		98,157 tons

YEAR	Vessels In	Vessels Out	Logs In	Coals Out	Grain Out
1954	858	858	11,341	90,848	9,883
1955	808	803	15,542	82,615	Nil
Increase	—	—	4,201	—	—
Decrease	50	55	—	8,233	9,883

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	23	39	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	57	0	
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	57	97	0	0

2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveni- ences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	2	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	2	—	4	—

During the Year:—

	Added	Deleted	'Change'
Factories	4	2	3
Workshops	0	1	0

Outworkers

Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Coy. Ltd., Lydney Glos. . . . 17

Petroleum Acts

Forty-six licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit:—

Summary:	Filling Stations	13
	Farms	9
	Factories	8
	Quarries	4
	Business premises	12

General

Complaints received

Nuisances reported to District Council (a) Total	71
(b) Swine	2
Number of nuisances abated	66
Number of preliminary notices served	71
Statutory notices served	0
Nuisances unabated	5

Number inspected of the following:—

	Inspections
(a) Butchers' shops	81
(b) Grocers' shops	97
(c) Other trades	52
(d) Catering establishments	64

SURVEYOR'S AND ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. H. I. Spratt, M.I.Mun.Eng., A.M.P.T.I., MR.San.I., reports as follows:—

The water for this supply is from two sources, Ferneyley Springs is pumped to a reservoir at Aylburton Common at a level of 460 O.D. and Tufts Level is a gravity supply used for the lower areas of the town and the industrial consumers. The estimated supply is as follows:—

Yield of Ferneyley Springs	163,410,000
Amount utilized	76,534,000
Amount run to waste	86,876,000
Water used from Tufts Level	36,000,000

Tufts Level again provided part of the supply to the town and no serious trouble was experienced but owing to the circumstances it is difficult to maintain the required yield and the records show that there is a gradual silting up and the supply is diminishing. Discoloration occurs in the mains caused by the heavy demand of the industries and the inadequacy of the existing mains.

The nine inch main from the boreholes at Rodmore to the Ferneyley Pumping Station was completed to use as a standby in case Tufts Level failed but it was not necessary during the year to bring this emergency measure into operation.

A small private supply provides water to the majority of the houses in Aylburton village, but the housing estate and Lower Common are supplied from Ferneyley.

Netherend and Woolaston are supplied from springs at Woolaston Common and the housing development at Severn View Road severely taxed the capacity of these springs and severe shortage occurred during the year. It was found necessary during the latter weeks of the summer to set up emergency tanks of drinking water. Owing to the housing development a scheme was submitted and approved to increase the size of the main in Severn View Road, and this work is programmed to start early in the new year.

Tidenham and Beachley are supplied by the Chepstow Water Company, but the Council Houses at Stroath and Hewelsfield have small piped supplies. The latter supply is unsatisfactory, samples taken from the Brockweir supply were satisfactory but the quantity was inadequate to meet the demand, and I have submitted to my Council a report advising them to extend the new mains to link up with the system in the village of Brockweir.

The small piped supply at St. Briavels remained in operation for the year but the continuance of the housing programme severely taxed this limited supply and was partially the cause of shortage in the village, it is fortunate that the termination of this supply is now within the foreseeable future. The remainder of the village is supplied from wells and springs and in a few cases rain water tanks.

Negotiations were completed with the Chepstow Water Company to extend the mains supply to a number of houses at Tidenham Chase, and this work when completed will relieve one of the worst parts of the district.

The Lower Meend at St. Briavels is another area which is in urgent need of a supply of water as at the present moment most of the houses draw water from a brook which, when samples are taken from it, shows a very heavy pollution.

During the year work continued on the construction of the Hart Hill Reservoir and laying of the mains to St. Briavels and Hewelsfield together with incidental works at the Borehole and Ferneyley Pumping Station. Work was also commenced on the nine inch main from Lydney to Aylburton. A tender amounting to £71,888 was accepted for work contained in Contract No. 6 which includes the construction of a large reservoir at Chapel Hill, Aylburton, with new rising main from Ferneyley Pumping Station and a connecting main to Aylburton. Grave concern was expressed

over the position of the supply at Woolaston and the Ministry have agreed to the acceptance of a tender of £3,955 for a connecting main from Clanna to Woolaston Common. Owing to the limitation on capital expenditure the Ministry of Housing and Local Government could not see its way clear to include Woodside and Parkhill within Contract No. 6, and the Council appointed a deputation together with representatives of the National Farmers' Union to visit the Ministry in London, a very good case was put forward for this supply and the Ministry has now approved the scheme in principle but cannot see its way clear to authorise the expenditure of the money involved, which is approximately £26,000. A diversion of the main leading to St. Briavels costing £1,400 was authorised by the Ministry. Approval was also given to the extension of the main to Windward together with the construction at Coldharbour, St. Briavels of a booster station, the cost of this portion being £3,588. Although Contract No. 5 which is the supply to the high levels of St. Briavels and Hewelsfield should have been completed during this year, it has been necessary to extend the Contract period, and it would appear that the supply will not be available for at least another nine months.

All these works are in fact an extension and improvement of the existing system, and have involved a great deal of consideration, and in some cases work has been done to the existing mains causing an interruption of the supply, but this work has in each case been carried out to give the minimum of inconvenience to the consumers.

It is hoped that during 1956 the Council's undertakings will be greatly extended and supplies afforded to the high level portions of the district which are badly in need of a wholesome and adequate supply of water. Even when these two main Contracts are completed and the supply taken to Woodside and Parkhill, there will still be isolated groups of houses without a proper piped water supply, and consideration must then be given to these properties.

